



**Homeland  
Security**

February 14, 2005

# Press Release

## **ICE AND CBP SEIZURE NETS \$1.3 MILLION WORTH OF MARIJUANA**

*Two U.S. citizen drug smugglers arrested as a result*

FT LAUDERDALE, FL- Two U.S. Citizens are now in federal custody facing smuggling, conspiracy and drug charges following an intensive interdiction operation in south Florida that was conducted by elements of the Department of Homeland Security.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Air and Marine Operations (AMO) today announced the arrest of the two men along with the seizure of more than 1,300 pounds of marijuana bound for the United States. ICE agents arrested John Steven White, 54, and Tony Randall Crunk 41, without incident on Wednesday night on drug smuggling charges.

The investigation started when U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, conducting routine aerial patrols off the coast of Ft. Lauderdale, spotted suspicious activities between a go-fast vessel and 66-ft sailboat. CBP marine enforcement officers and ICE special agents immediately responded to the incident.

The 66-ft. sailboat, which was bound for Pier 66 Marina in Fort Lauderdale, was allowed to safely dock prior to being inspected.

ICE special agents and CBP marine enforcement officers boarded the sailboat and discovered the marijuana concealed in various compartments.

The seized marijuana has an approximate street value of \$1.3 million. The seized 66-ft. sailboat is estimated to be worth \$750,000.

White and Crunk are in U.S. Marshals custody at the federal detention center awaiting the outcome of their cases. Both were arraigned Thursday morning on charges of smuggling, illegal importation of a controlled substance and conspiracy.



**Homeland  
Security**

“These arrests are a reflection of DHS’s unrelenting determination to identify drug smugglers whose only goal is to profit at the expense of others,” said Jesus Torres, ICE special agent-in-charge of the Miami office. “Thanks to the efforts of ICE and CBP, these dangerous drugs will not reach our community.”

“CBP’s air space security mission and long range detection capability enabled us to work closely with ICE agents to make these significant arrests and seizure,” said Robert D. Viator, field office director for U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Miami Air and Marine branch.

The United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida has accepted the cases for prosecution.

# DHS#